

Message Text

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45

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 IO-12 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 PM-09 NSC-10

SS-15 DODE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01 RSR-01 TRSE-00

/136 W

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R 300920 Z APR 73

FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1501

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS DURBAN 0177

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ELAB, SF

SUBJ: U. S. EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES

1. S U M M A R Y:

SUNDAY TRIBUNE PUBLISHED STORY APRIL 29 THAT 24 MILLION U. S. WORKERS EARNING LESS THAN \$142 PER MONTH. REQUEST DEPARTMENT FURNISH GUIDANCE AND APPROPRIATE FIGURES PERMIT APPROPRIATE RESPONSE TO INQUIRIES.

2. DURBAN- BASED SUNDAY TRIBUNE PUBLISHED STORY APRIL 29 FROM WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT ALLEGING THAT IN EXCESS 24 MILLION U. S. WORKERS EARNING BELOW R100 (\$142) PER MONTH, WHICH, ARTICLE NOTES, IS LEVEL SUGGESTED BY RECENT STATE DEPARTMENT PAPER AS MINIMUM REASONABLE WAGE THAT SHOULD BE PAID BY U. S. FIRMS DOING BUSINESS IN SOUTH AFRICA.
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CORRESPONDENT BASES ARTICLE ON " SPECIAL CALCULATIONS"

ALLEGEDLY MADE FOR HIM BY CENSUS BUREAU, WHICH REPORTED THAT 9.7 MILLION MEN AND 14 MILLION WOMEN EARNED LESS THAN \$1,650 (R1,155) PER YEAR. WHEN ALL FORMS MONEY INCOME (INCLUDING PENSIONS AND DOLE) ARE CONSIDERED, ARTICLE SAID, 9.8 MILLION MEN AND 20 MILLION WOMEN IN U. S. STILL FALL BELOW " SOUTH AFRICAN POVERTY LINE" OF R1,200 PER YEAR.

3. ARTICLE ALSO ALLEGES THAT ALMOST HALF U. S. WAGE EARNERS NOT COVERED BY MINIMUM WAGE LEGISLATION AND CALLS U. S. LABOR DEPARTMENT CALCULATIONS THAT SIX MILLION WORKERS RECEIVE LESS THAN MINIMUM LEVEL TOO CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATE. COMPARING U. S. PER CAPITA INCOME OF R3,850 PER YEAR WITH SOUTH AFRICAN R515, ARTICLE CONCLUDES THAT INCOME GAP BETWEEN POOR AND RICH GREATER IN U. S. THAN IN SOUTH AFRICA. STORY ENDS WITH ADAGE ABOUT " POT CALLING KETTLE BLACK". COPY ARTICLE BEING POUCHED.

4. CONGEN HAS BEGUN RECEIVING INQUIRIES RE VALIDITY ARTICLE' S FIGURES AND CONSLUSIONS. DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE WOULD BE APPRECIATED PERMIT ACCURATE RESPONSE.
HOLMES

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973DURBAN00177
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: DURBAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730454/aaaaizmd.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15-Oct-2001 by averetam>; APPROVED <15 FEB 2002 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980205
Subject: U. S. EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES
TAGS: ELAB, SF
To: AF
CAPE TOWN
JOHANNESBURG
PRETORIA
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

